



BILL CAMPBELL

SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ORANGE COUNTY HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
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August 20, 2003

The Irvine City Council
1 Civic Center Plaza
Irvine, California 92604

RE: The Great Park Corporation

Dear Irvine City Council Members:

When I ran for the office of Orange County Supervisor, I promised voters that I would support the annexation of MCAS, El Toro by the City of Irvine on the basis that the property would be developed as a regional asset for all county citizens. The governing structure of the Great Park must ensure that the land remain a regional asset governed by a structure which permits county-wide representation, allows for public accountability, and ensures that all decisions about the Great Park are made in the public forum. I believe the non-profit corporation as proposed by the City of Irvine to govern the park can provide for this needed public accountability, yet be a dynamic and effective governance structure for this regional asset.

The non-profit corporation proposed by your city staff can accommodate regional representation, but it does not provide the transparency or openness necessary for an entity responsible for management of over \$355 million in public funds. To provide that public transparency, the Great Park Corporation should be required to clearly abide by the California Open Meetings Act (the Brown Act), the Political Reform Act, the Public Records Act, and should be required to put all contracts out to public bid.

Beyond these operational concerns, my biggest concern is that the proposed Great Park Corporation's Board of Directors are not accountable to the public. The current staff recommendation creates a Board of Directors comprised of two City Directors and five "public" members. While the five "public" members are initially appointed by your City Council, all future appointments are **self-perpetuating**, allowing these private members to re-appoint themselves and appoint new members upon vacancies. Moreover, the Board can terminate any other "public" member at any time. This structure provides no accountability to the electorate and is not in the public interest.

To safe guard the public's investment in the Great Park, the board's structure must be amended. An ideal composition should include both elected officials who represent the Great Park and appointees who, on a continual and staggered basis, are appointed by elected officials to represent all of Orange County. I would propose that the Board of Directors be comprised of two Irvine City Directors, the Orange County Supervisor who represents the Great Park, the Orange County Treasurer, and three "public" members selected by the Orange County League of Cities City

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Selection Committee- two from South Orange County and one from North Orange County. Two other alternatives you might consider are to have the five "public" members elected at large on a staggered basis or to have the five "public" members appointed on a staggered basis by your City Council.

Governance of Orange County's Great Park should not be left to a group of private individuals, doing business behind closed-doors. County residents deserve accountability and transparency in governing the Great Park to restore and ensure the public's trust in the re-use of MCAS, El Toro.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B" and "C".

Bill Campbell
Orange County Supervisor, Third District